

Wyckoff Reformed Church
Wyckoff, Bergen County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Wyckoff Reformed Church
Wyckoff, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: Consistory of Wyckoff Reformed Church

Date of Erection: 1806

Architect:

Builder: The Baldwins - carpentry
The Van Blarcoms - masonry

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two and steeple

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - dressed
sandstone

Interior walls - plaster
on wood lath, wainscoting

Roof - pitch, wood shingles

Historical Data:

In the early nineteenth century the nearest church to the district known as Wikehoff (Indian name meaning "High ground") was the Old Ponds Church at Oakland. The residents of the Wyckoff district decided to build their own church. The parish extended from Wyckoff to Preakness; it was decided to build, however, in Wyckoff. The present site, consisting of one-half acre, was bought of Aaron Ackerman and Albert Van Voorhees for \$7.50. The date of the deed is

N. J.
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September 7, 1805. The actual building of the church commenced in the spring of the following year. Daniel Baldwin of Saddle River did the carpentry work assisted by Thomas Myera, a contractor, who with his men, donated his services. Daniel and William Van Blarcom of Godwinville did the masonry work. The steeple was built by Joseph Baldwin of Godwinville. The auditorium of the church was once larger than it is at present because a vestibule has since been cut off.

The church had eighty-four pews on the ground floor and twenty-four in the gallery. In December, 1807, these pews were sold at public auction to pay for the cost of the building. The pews were valued from \$7.50 to \$70.00 and no pew was sold without a premium. The total sale of pews brought in \$4111.62 plus \$235.37 in premiums. All but six in the auditorium and three in the gallery were sold.

The first preacher was the Reverend Peter De Witt, who served both the Church of Ponds and Wyckoff. He preached in English at Wyckoff. He was buried in the church near the elders' pew; no monument marks the spot.

In 1829 the steeple of the church was struck by lightning. It was apparently originally higher than it is now, being shortened when repaired.

During the pastorate of William Van Benschoten, the church was repaired. The windows and pews were remodeled. The doors were removed from the pews and used to form wainscoting along the walls. At this time an alcove was built for the pulpit.

N.J.
2-WYCK
2

Bibliography:

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Material collected by Wallace Dunlop,
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